



PRESS RELEASE

# Commonwealth Awards \$2 Million for Development in Revere

MassWorks Infrastructure Program award will support the revitalization of Shirley Avenue and enhance city's walkability

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito

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**REVERE, MA** — Governor Charlie Baker and Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash joined local officials and community leaders to announce a \$2 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant to the City of Revere for the revitalization of Shirley Avenue. The award will enable substantial improvements to street surfaces and sidewalks within Revere's Coastal Development Transformative Development District, which will benefit nearby businesses and support the construction of new private

developments, including a new, 30-unit veteran's housing development. Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$6 million to the City of Revere through MassWorks grants.

"With today's award, our Administration has invested over \$7 million to unlock opportunities for private investment, housing and new jobs in the City of Revere," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "Programs like MassWorks continue to fuel the forward momentum happening here in Revere, benefiting residents, visitors, and small businesses in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood. We continue to work closely with all our local partners to advance important projects like this one that drive development and prosperity in our communities."

"MassWorks reflects our administration's support for flexible funding that also leverages local and private resources to meet the economic development needs of each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns," **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. "We are proud to have increased funding for this critical program that has supported thousands of new housing units, industrial expansion, and new mixed-use development space across every region of the Commonwealth."

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program makes grants to municipalities for public infrastructure projects that generate additional private sector investment.

Today's award will allow Revere to undertake extensive street and sidewalk improvements on six streets that define the Revere Coastal Development Transformative Development District. [\*\*The Transformative Development Initiative \(TDI\) is a MassDevelopment program for Gateway Cities\*\*](#), designed to accelerate economic growth within focused districts.

New trees, lighting and streetscape amenities at various points within the district will benefit pedestrian safety and walkability. The project will also construct a safe pedestrian walkway to Wonderland Plaza, and improve walking routes to Revere Beach, the MBTA Revere Beach Blue Line station and the MGH Neighborhood Health Center.

These improvements will also support the redevelopment of the former Revere Synagogue, Congregation Tifereth Israel, into 30 new housing units for veterans. Additional new and planned housing and mixed-use developments will also benefit from the project, including an 8-unit development on Dehon Street, and three proposed developments that represent at least \$5 million in private investment, which could create nearly 30 new housing units.

"The effectiveness of the MassWorks Infrastructure Program and the reason that it has been successful at unlocking development is the program's ability to support projects across a wide range of sizes and scope," **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash**. "Each year we fund high-quality, shovel-ready projects, and this year is no exception. I congratulate the cities and towns for pursuing

projects that strengthen communities and promote sustainable economic growth and development across the Commonwealth.”

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program provides a one-stop shop for municipalities and other eligible public entities seeking public infrastructure funding to support housing production, economic development, and job creation. Since 2015, and including this year’s awards, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$274 million to 134 projects in 106 communities throughout the Commonwealth, spurring the development of over 2 million square feet of commercial and retail space, over 7,000 immediate housing units, at least 7,000 square feet of new public space, and 1,200 new hotel rooms and commercial/retail space.

“MassWorks funding provides our communities with flexibility to address critical projects that support local economic growth and job creation,” **said Administration and Finance Secretary Michael J. Heffernan.** “We have prioritized engaging and supporting our cities and towns in our capital budget plan, and the MassWorks program is one of the best ways in which we can do this.”

“We appreciate the vote of confidence in the future of Revere that this \$2 million MassWorks grant from Governor Baker represents. Shirley Avenue is the past, present and future of Revere,” **said Revere Mayor Brian M. Arrigo.** “And this MassWorks commitment will help to assure that Revere can continue to be a vibrant community of which we can all be proud. For the past two years the City of Revere and the Shirley Avenue Working Group have engaged with MassDevelopment through its Transformative Development Initiative to make this dynamic neighborhood all that it can be. The result has been the ongoing revitalization of this area — both physically and economically; and this MassWorks grant is a critical and timely part of that process. These funds will be used to rebuild the streetscape of the Shirley Avenue district and will provide a strong foundation for the private economic development of the neighborhood, which is now becoming increasingly evident and will become even more varied and visible in the years to come.”

“The Shirley Avenue neighborhood is one of the most culturally, ethnically and economically vibrant sections of the Revere,” said **House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo.** “This MassWorks grant will help us build upon ongoing progress and connect the neighborhood with nearby developments and attractions.”

“I want to thank Secretary Ash and the administration for providing this opportunity to the City of Revere,” **said State Representative RoseLee Vincent.** “In recent years, local leaders have committed to revitalizing the Shirley Avenue neighborhood, and I believe this grant will help us to transform Shirley Avenue and the surrounding neighborhood.”

In August 2016, Governor Baker signed [An Act Relative to Job Creation and Workforce Development \(H.4569\)](#) to reauthorize MassWorks and support \$500 million of future investment in critical

infrastructure, a significant commitment by the Commonwealth.

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